

Director's Report to the NTP Board of Scientific Counselors

Linda S. Birnbaum, Ph.D.

Director

National Institute of Environmental Health
Sciences and National Toxicology Program

February 24, 2009



Allow me to introduce myself... and my vision for the NIEHS and the NTP

- Health and Environment is a priority for the new Administration
- Environment is a global issue
- We need the best individual and team science to address complex diseases and complex environmental impacts
- We need to improve integration across research disciplines
- We need to improve our translation of basic science into human health and the public health
- The NTP is a leader worldwide in toxicology research and testing and we must sustain and strengthen that role

For more than 30 years, the NTP has provided the scientific information needed by others to make sound decisions to safeguard the public health. I am committed to sustaining and strengthening its leadership role.

NTP is moving forward, exploring new approaches for toxicology:

- High throughput screening for targeting key cellular pathways, molecular events, or processes linked to disease or injury
- Non-mammalian model systems
- Host susceptibility models for understanding the genetic basis for sensitivity to effects of toxic substances

NTP studies involve team science:

- Bringing together diverse disciplines to address complex diseases and complex environmental impact
- NTP is actively involved in training our future scientists
 - Postdoctoral training programs in
 - o Toxicology
 - o Carcinogenesis
 - o Pathology
 - o Laboratory Animal Medicine

Director's Actions in Past Month

- Committed to restoring close interactions with Bethesda, extramural communities, and our interagency partners
- Decided to open the NIEHS Clinical Research Unit
 - No invasive procedures/inhalation exposures
 - Outside advisory panel
- Opened gates between the NIEHS and the EPA
- Initiated facility sharing with EPA
- Initiated continuous shuttle between NIEHS main campus and satellite facility
- Top leadership position OPEN! national searches
 - Deputy Director, Scientific Director, Director of the Division of Extramural Research and Training, and Clinical Director
 - Ethics and diversity/education

Appropriations: FY2009 Marks

	FY 2008		FY 2009		FY 2009		FY 2009	
	Enacted (Includes Supplement)		President's Budget		House Subcommittee		Senate Subcommittee	
NIH	\$ 2	9,379,524,000	\$ 2	9,229,524,000	\$3	0,379,524,000	\$ 30	0,254,524,000
Common fund	\$	498,244,000	\$	533,877,000	\$	544,146,000	\$	568,119,000
NIEHS	\$	645,669,000	\$	642,875,000	\$	664,980,000	\$	660,767,000
Superfund	\$	77,546,000	\$	77,546,000	\$	78,074,000		
Training (DOE)	\$	9,909,000	\$0		\$	10,000,000		
NIEHS TOTAL	\$	733,124,000			\$	753,054,000		

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009

- \$10B for NIH over 2 years
 - \$1B for extramural facility construction and renovation
 - \$300M for shared instrumentation
 - \$8.2B for research
 - \$7.4B goes to the Institutes/Centers
 - \$800M stays in the Office of the Director
 - \$500M for buildings and facilities including new construction
- Comparative Effectiveness Research \$400M passthrough to NIH
 - Compares effectiveness of one treatment/intervention to another treatment/intervention for the same disease

NIH Economic Recovery Funds

- Expeditious, merit-based process for maximum economic, health, and science benefits
 - 2 years of funding
 - Maximize flexibility within the stimulus guidelines
- Approaches for NIH funding
 - Proportional to each NIH Institute: \$7.4B
 - 2 year R01 Funding
 - Scientifically appropriate
 - Already reviewed, highly meritorious
 - New R01s
 - Supplements to Current Grants
- Challenge Grants centrally funded ~\$200M
 - Address defined health and science problems

Breast Cancer and Environment Research Act

- Passed October 2008
- Establishes the Interagency Breast Cancer and Environmental Research Coordinating Committee (by April 8, 2009)
 - 7 Federal officials, 6 scientists or physicians, 6 advocates
 - Coordinate information on existing research activities
 - Make recommendations for new research
 - Develop a comprehensive strategy
- Authorizes (but does not appropriate) \$40M to carry out research to evaluate environmental and genomic factors that may be related to the etiology of breast cancer



Questions and Discussion

